



**LARGEST  
WEEKLY CIRCULATION  
IN CHICAGO.**

**PASS A \$500 CIGARETTE LICENSE  
LAW!**

It is high time that the State of Illinois interfered with the cigarette business in Illinois by imposing an annual license fee of \$500 for the sale of the articles.

The action of the City Council Committee in reducing the local cigarette license from \$100 to \$20 per year is simply scandalous.

The city has been put to great expense in testing its power to tax cigarettes in the way of a \$100 license, and the Supreme Court has sustained the city. The court held that the city of Chicago had the right to regulate the sale of cigarettes. The Eagle understands that certain Aldermen claim that the city is losing a large amount of money, as appears from the report of Dec. 5, inasmuch as all large dealers have paid their \$100 license, and that the small dealers are selling without any license whatever; that to further help the small dealer (who pays no license at all at present), to elect the city out of its \$100 license fee, the Council wants to cut this down to \$20 for all of them, and where the city is now receiving from 400 dealers who have taken out a license the sum of \$40,000 a year, the city would only receive some \$4,000 a year. This means a big loss to the city's revenue. If the reasoning of the Council is correct, to wit, that they cannot enforce the collection of the \$100 license, they surely cannot collect the \$20 one.

In many of the larger cities of this State the local authorities have imposed a license of \$100 for the sale of cigarettes, and they collect it, too. Moreover, by regulating the traffic, they have prevented the sale of cigarettes to school children to a certain extent—but only to a certain extent. The American Tobacco Company, as the trust is called, in order to get around the local ordinance upon ready-made cigarettes, has placed upon the market the tobacco, and with each and every package of it they give away a package of papers, so that the youth can make his own cigarettes. This should be prohibited by law and should be embraced in the proposed act.

Elsewhere in The Eagle will be found the draft of a proposed law.

Either this law or one like it should be passed.

The people of Illinois demand a \$500 annual license for the cigarette business.

**MOVE FOR BETTER JUSTICES.**

The Civic Federation and the Chicago Bar Association jointly will attempt to secure much needed reforms in the operation of Chicago "justice shops." The Executive Committee of the Civic Federation on last Saturday adopted resolutions for the appointment of a committee of twelve citizens to act in conjunction with the bar association. The Committee on Amendments to the laws of the Bar Association about the same time referred the matter to ex-Attorney General George Hunt to formulate some plan and report back to the committee.

The terms of twenty-five justices of the peace in Chicago are about to expire, and the selection of their successors rests with the Judges of the Circuit and Superior Courts. The weight of both organizations will be brought to bear on these Judges to secure the recommendation of men of good moral character and legal ability for the positions.

The resolution adopted by the Civic Federation committee was introduced by Newton A. Partridge. It follows: "Resolved, That a committee of twelve representative citizens be appointed by the President, which shall co-operate with the bar association, and confer with the Circuit and Superior Court Judges of Cook County with reference to a full investigation, and report by a nonpartisan and impartial committee upon the character and qualifications of nominees for the positions of Justices of peace in the city of Chicago."

"The scandals which have attended the trial of cases in justice courts growing out of the incompetency, to call it by no worse name, of many of the Justices of the peace in Chicago have become a crying evil," Mr. Partridge explained. "All these Justices are nominated by the Judges of the Circuit and Superior Courts. The members of the Bar Association especially are interested in clean courts, and we think the time has come to take active steps toward obtaining the appointment by the Judges of a better class of men for Justices. Sufficient attention has not been given to the character and qualifications of these Justices, who exercise practically uncontrolled power in minor cases affecting the poorer class of people."

"I had not heard of the action of the Civic Federation," said Henry S. Towle, President of the Bar Association, "but I am sure the Bar Association will join in any such issue. The present system of justice courts is objectionable for many reasons, principally the practice of bringing suit in the country courts, and compelling people to lose the case by default in this way. Another practice is setting the time for trial so that the defendant is unable to be on hand to represent his interests, and the whole thing should be changed."

Hon. John S. Miller, chairman of the Bar Association's Committee on Amendments to the Laws, said the committee would meet to consider the report of ex-Attorney General Hunt whenever he has it ready to present. The committee will then be ready to bring up the subject before the meeting of the association.

**TRIBUTE FROM CHICAGO BAR.**

Resolutions were passed by the board of managers of the Chicago Bar Association on Saturday endorsing the efforts of State's Attorney Deneen in his jury-bringing investigations, and calling upon members of the association who have reason to suspect jury-bringing in any cases with which they have been connected to furnish the State's Attorney with the evidence.

The grievance committee, consisting of Frank Asbury Johnson, Leander D. Condee, Frank J. Smith and Judge Collins, met in the office of Edwin M. Ashcraft in the First National Bank Building at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and drew up the resolutions which were submitted to the board of managers, who held a session in the Title and Trust Building at 3 o'clock. The resolutions were endorsed by the board.

"We will proceed against any member of the bar whom we can convict of jury-bringing," said Secretary George M. Rogers of the association. "We are absolutely dependent upon the justice of the courts, and an unjust court is worse than no court. Accordingly we are determined to do all we can to preserve justice and punish jury-bringing."

A meeting of the Bar Association may be called upon to consider the question.

**PRaise FOR PRESIDENT CARTER.**

Z. R. Carter, who retires from the presidency of the Board of Trade after one year's term, received the congratulations and thanks of members of the exchange Monday afternoon. His administration was praiseworthy in every particular, and if he wished the reelection there is no doubt that he would have been chosen for another term of office. But Mr. Carter positively declined the re-nomination when it was offered to him, pleading stress of other business. Besides his own business affairs a great deal of his time is taken up as trustee of the Chicago sanitary district, and it is also known that Mr. Carter's friends are prompting him for higher political offices in the near future.

**THE VICIOUS WAREHOUSE ACT OF 1897.**

The original warehouse law of Illinois provided in sufficiently explicit terms that the operator of a warehouse, class A, should receive for storage only the grain of others, and should not store nor deal in his own grain through his own warehouse. If he bought or stored his own grain and sold it, he had an advantage which his customers did not possess. This is the spirit of the law of 1871 relating to warehouses and of its amendments up to the session of the boodle Legislature of 1897.

The reasonableness of this law is clearly set forth in the recent opinion of Justice Cartwright of the Supreme Court in the warehouse cases. He says that "where one person occupies a relation in which he owes a duty to another he shall not place himself in any position which will expose him to the temptation of acting contrary to that duty or bring his interest in conflict with his duty." It is human as well as divine law that no man can serve two masters. No warehouseman can serve his own interests and at the same time serve the interests of his customer, with whom he is in competition as a trader in grain. Then the court says: "Courts of equity have never allowed a person occupying such a relation to undertake the service of two whose interests are in conflict, but forbids such a course of dealing, irrespective of his good faith or his bad faith. If the duty of the defendant as public warehouseman stands in opposition to personal interests, as buyers and dealers in grain storing the same in their own warehouses, then the law interposes a preventive check against any temptation to act from personal interest by prohibiting them from occupying any such position."

This was the implication of the law of 1871, which clearly separates the business of a warehouseman from the business of a dealer in grain. A warehouse is a public utility the operations of which are regulated by law. Its owner, by buying grain, storing it in his own bins without cost to himself and selling it out, can pay more for grain and sell for less than other traders. To prevent this discrimination the law prohibiting warehousemen from dealing in grain was enacted.

Members of the Board of Trade who suffered in business from this illicit competition commenced legal proceedings to stop the handling of their own grain by warehousemen. The suit was in the interest of every farmer and of every dealer in grain who did not own a warehouse. While the suit was pending the boodle Legislature of 1897 passed an act which apparently authorized warehousemen to deal in their own grain.

This was an attempt to legalize by a corrupt statute a dishonest system of business under which recently discriminations might be practiced everywhere against farmers and honest dealers in farm products. It belonged to the same class of bad, corrupt and scandalous legislation as the Gas Consolidation bill and similar boodle measures of the last Legislature.

In considering the warehouse cases the Supreme Court refused to reopen the proceedings for the purpose of admitting pleadings and hearing arguments relating to the boodle warehouse act of 1897. The inference is plain. The court must have considered that the act of the boodle Legislature was void, as against public policy, in authorizing vicious discriminations in the business of buying and selling grain.

It is unfortunate that the court did not reopen the case and decide the entire question—that of the validity of the new act as well as to the illegality of dealings in grain by warehousemen under the act of 1871. A full decision would have settled for all time the questions involved.

**WORK FOR SANGAMON COUNTY GRAND JURY.**

Every honest man, whether in or outside the Legislature, will be glad that the Sangamon County grand jury seems determined to make a thorough investigation of legislative boodling. The honest member has nothing to fear and much to gain from an investigation that really investigates a subject in which every citizen of Illinois is immediately and personally interested. The Sangamon County grand jury, therefore, in determining to question the entire Legislature concerning "warehouse and elevator" methods should receive the support of every citizen interested in honest State government throughout our great commonwealth.

The difficulty about such investigation is that the real legislative boodler is an adept at covering his trail and the recipients of his bounty are not likely to be prompt in answering the question, "Boodle, boodle, who's got the boodle?" The influences at work corrupting the sources of State law and equity are felt, rather than actually observed, by honest citizens. They are like the deadly miasma in the air, and only the specialists can trace the habitat of the boodle bacillus and reveal its devious and hidden ways of working to the accomplishment of its end.

The vague and the general are not capable of being grasped by a grand jury or any other body. Particular and definite transactions must be looked for or the entire legislative investigation will be valueless and the forces of boodle remain entrenched more strongly than before.

**ANTI-GAS TRUST MEETINGS.**

The Twenty-fifth Ward Democratic Club has passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the gas consolidation legislation passed in 1897 is inimical to public interests and should be repealed, as it forever debars the city from operating its own gas plant.

The Seventh Ward Democratic Club has passed a resolution instructing its Senators and Representatives to vote for the repeal of the infamous gas frontage consolidation laws.

The Seventh Ward Republican Club has passed resolutions calling upon the Legislature to repeal the infamous gas consolidation and frontage laws.

The Bryan Democratic Club of the Ninth ward has demanded the repeal of the infamous gas frontage-consolidation bill.

The Republican Municipal Ownership Club of the Twelfth ward has passed a resolution demanding the repeal of the gas consolidation bill.

The Jefferson Democratic Club passed a set of resolutions favoring municipal ownership of gas works and demanding the repeal of the frontage gas consolidation law because it creates a monopoly.

**PERJURY, TOO!**

When the Sangamon County grand jury takes up the bribery cases against the Gas Trust and Warehouse people it will also indict many legislators for perjury on their oath of office.

Although this oath is administered to 153 citizens of Illinois every two years it is not commonly known that each Representative not only lifts his right hand and solemnly swears to do his duty, etc., but he also signs his name to the oath of office which closes with the following sweeping oath-bound promise:

"Nor will I accept or receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing from any corporation, company or person for any vote or influence I may give or withhold on any bill, resolution or appropriation, or for any other official act."

"Oh, that's only a matter of form," explained one of the old members to a new one who suggested "That's a cast-iron oath, isn't it?"

**EAGLETS.**

One of the best men talked of for the office of Justice of the Peace on the North Side is Mr. James H. Collins. While Mr. Collins is a lifelong and stalwart Republican he has the good wishes of all classes of people and of all men, regardless of politics. His record as a business man and citizen is above reproach. Mr. Collins, who has been located in the Chamber of Commerce Building for years, is one of the best known real estate men in the city, and his knowledge of law is excellent by none.

Mr. Edwin R. Fish, for years the popular clerk of Justice R. H. White, will be one of the new Justices for the town of Jefferson.

Judge Tuttle says: "I know the Judges would be pleased to receive any information concerning any Justice who may be a candidate for reappointment or any new applicant."

"The law that fixes \$5,000 as the largest amount collectable for a death is unjust and ought to be repealed. A man who is worth from \$10,000 to \$25,000 a year to his family may be killed and his heirs can collect only \$5,000. In New York there is a constitutional inhibition against any law fixing a maximum amount that may be recovered for an injury that results in death. That constitutional provision makes it useless for corruptionists to try to buy a New York Legislature in order to have it pass such an act as has been discussed."

Little is known among legislators about the expected racing bill this Legislature is to take up; but the members say they are morally certain Illinois will have some kind of a racing law. If a measure like the Percy-Gray law of New York is introduced and if the right persons ask for its passage, say the critics, there will be no need of boodle from the racing associations in getting the law. The New York law is strict—it permits racing at the big tracks where there could be no sport if only the constitutional amendment of the State were used to regulate race track operations.

Mr. Joseph P. Junk, the popular Halsted street brewer, who has been prominently mentioned for City Treasurer, is heartily in favor of having Mayor Harrison succeed himself. Mr. Junk said Wednesday: "No Mayor of this great city ever made a finer record in office, and if the voters are wise they will see to it that Carter H. Harrison is re-elected by the biggest majority ever given a good Mayor in this, or any other municipality."

At a meeting of the Judges of the various courts of the county held Friday afternoon a committee was appointed to receive the applications of the aspirants to the office of justice of the peace. The meeting was held in the chambers of Judge C. G. Neely, presiding Justice of the Circuit Court. The committee appointed consisted of Judges C. G. Neely, Elbridge Haney, and E. F. Dunne from the Circuit, and Judges F. Q. Ball and Jonas Hutchinson from the Superior Court. The method to be adopted by the committee, which was approved by the meeting, will be to provide a book, to be kept open to the public, where each candidate can register his application, thus avoiding the confusion incident to the filing of applications with the several Judges. It was also settled that all applications submitted for the approval of the Judges should be filed not later than Feb. 15. At a meeting of the Circuit Court Judges held at the close of the joint meeting the report of the committee on the petitions of the county officers for help was presented and approved.

The crime of bribing State Senators and Representatives is committed only by experts. It requires great skill in reading the lines of human nature in the countenance, a quick and sound judgment in selecting opportunities to approach those who are considered susceptible to criminal influences, slyness and secretiveness, immobility of countenance (as the veteran poker player puts it), and nerves as steady as cast-iron, with an amplitude and readiness of resources that would be of incalculable value in a worthy undertaking. Professional Legislative-Bribers are men who would commit any crime if their success and safety were assured.

Henry M. Shabed is said to have the backing of a majority of the Judges for appointment as Justice of the Peace on the West Side. Mr. Shabed is a good lawyer and a most reputable citizen.

If recent revelations, notable in the passage of Gas Consolidation and the notorious and infamous Warehouse Bills, are based on the actual condition of affairs in the State Legislature it may well be inquired if bribery and other forms of buying up our State Senators and Representatives are epidemic and general in Illinois. The information obtainable and the current scandals relative to certain un-American laws passed upon our statute books by the last General Assembly have been the means of exciting great alarm throughout this great Commonwealth.

The statements published should be enough of an incentive to warrant a House committee, or the Sangamon County Grand Jury, in making the most thorough investigation immediately. The investigation to be made should be most vigorously pushed wherever indications of crime may lead. Honest members cannot afford to rest until the Bribe-takers and Boodlers are placed behind the bars. Corruption in the Legislature must cease. The entire community is deeply interested in the disclosure of every fact connected with this awful scandal.

Judge Adams A. Goodrich merely went to Springfield for his health.

Ben Billings ought to be summoned before the Legislative Investigating Committee. He is an interesting talker.

The members of the Legislature are looking forward with pleasure to the examination of Ben Billings.

A special subpoena will doubtless be issued for Ben Billings by the Sangamon County Grand Jury.

The "Universal Gas Company" obtained a franchise from the city on the express stipulation that it would charge but 90 cents per thousand feet for gas. The Universal company is now owned by the Trust, and is furnishing gas at \$1.10 per 1,000 feet, in defiance of law. Its franchise should be forfeited forthwith.

Seven hundred and fifty dollars per vote was the market price of members of the Illinois House of Representatives on the "Consolidation and Frontage" Gas Trust law.

Do the people like the robbery they are forced to put up with at the hands of the Gas Trust? They have to like it. The Gas Trust paid the Legislature to pass a law forbidding competition.

Corporations and corruption are beginning to be synonymous terms.

The Elevator Trust must go.

As Judge Waterman says, no man is too big for the law to take hold of him. How about the elevator men who operated at Springfield in 1897? Are they going to escape?

Why is not the anti-Trust law of the State enforced against the Gas Trust?

Think of a corporation robbing every householder of Chicago and using the public streets without a franchise!

One of the men talked to at Springfield by the eminent legal authority who acted as director general of the frontage bill at Springfield has made an affidavit. Next!

It is said that the majority of the men who voted for the gas consolidation bill at Springfield only received \$750 each. Cheap enough.

The Chicago Gas Trust, which bought and paid for the passage of the infamous consolidation law in the last Legislature, will try to buy another one this winter. The one they bought does not suit them entirely.

The Gas Trust needs a new bill at Springfield this winter.

The investigation of the Gas and Warehouse boodle bills will shake up things in Chicago, and don't you forget it.

The testimony of Mr. Armour and Mr. Goddard before the investigating committee ought to be interesting.

Municipal ownership of gas plants is out of the question. Ben Billings can tell why.

**PASS THIS RESOLUTION!**

The following resolution will be presented by influential men to both the Republican and Democratic City Conventions:

"Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly be, and they are hereby, requested to insist upon and to vote for the repeal of the infamous gas consolidation legislation, openly purchased in the last General Assembly of Illinois, and which infamous measure subjects our people to perpetual robbery and forever debars our city from owning a lighting plant of its own."

This resolution was passed by both the Republican and Democratic County Conventions in 1898.

How much will the corporation lawyers shell out to cheat the farmers on the elevator bill?

The party that stands by the elevator trust this winter will be beaten in Illinois in 1900.

When the Bar Association learns that some of the leading lights of the profession have been bribing law-makers, will it secure their disbarment?

By all means let us have a legislative investigating committee. The amount of "racing back" that it can do will amply repay the time and trouble caused in bringing it to life.

The repeal of the infamous gas frontage laws by the next Legislature will give us five or six new gas companies, and with competition the people will get their rights.

There should be an investigation of the methods of doing business of the Auditing Committee of the West Town Board.

Hon. William Legner has the backing of the great Northwest Side in the fight for the City Treasurership. He is personally honorable, able and clever, and will fill the office to the great satisfaction of the people.

Trustful Billings ought to visit Springfield himself this winter.

The Sangamon County grand jury will have its hands full very soon if, as has been claimed, it has decided to take up the matter of legislative boodling in the last session, when the infamous warehouse bill was placed on our statute books.

The Sangamon County grand jury should do its duty and investigate the passage of the warehouse bill. The honest members of the Legislature can facilitate matters, and make the grand jury's work much easier if they will lend a hand in "tracing back" and thus pave the way to an exposure of the fellows who have proven themselves the enemies of Illinois farmers and also the enemies of good society.

Bribing Legislatures, although an old story—instanced the last session of the warehouse infamy—is also a monstrous crime against civilization, and the community that cannot scourge the offenders is sunk in sloth and may look for the ruin that its indifference invites.



**HON. JOHN S. MILLER.**

The Eminent Lawyer, Urged for President of the Union League Club.

Hon. John S. Miller has been nominated for President of the great Union League Club, on the members' ticket. His candidacy meets with enthusiastic endorsement, as he is one of Chicago's best known and most popular citizens, and also occupies a very prominent position at the Chicago bar.

The members' nominating committee of the Union League Club met Saturday afternoon and after a protracted session unanimously put a members' ticket into the field headed by the Hon. John S. Miller, in opposition to the regular ticket of the club, headed by Melville E. Stone.

The nomination of Mr. Miller was without a dissenting voice, and it is the belief of prominent members that Mr. Miller's ticket will be the choice of a majority of the members of the club at the coming election. The nominating committee was composed of the following members: Major A. W. Clancy, H. S. Burkhardt, Frank H. Jones, Lawton C. Bouney, and Theodore W. Letton. The members' ticket is made up as follows:

President—John S. Miller.  
First Vice President—Frank B. Tobey.  
Second Vice President—Warren B. Kulkern.  
Secretary—Walter H. Chamberlain.  
Treasurer—John McLaren.  
Directors—J. J. McDonald, James H. Gilbert, Wilton C. Smith.  
Committee on Political Action—E. G. Halle, Joseph Downey, and George William Dixon.

Mr. Miller had many supporters for the nomination for president a year ago, and one of the members of the nominating committee held out for three days for Mr. Miller as the regular candidate. His name was finally withdrawn, however, and another substituted.

Many of the prominent members Saturday expressed themselves as in favor of Mr. Miller for president, both on account of his standing in the club and his reputation as a lawyer. He was spoken of as one of the most active workers, and a man who has always had the interests of the club at heart.

"I certainly am in favor of Mr. Miller for president," said N. H. Blatchford. "He has the very highest reputation as a member and a lawyer, and has been a good worker in the club. He would make an excellent president, and is very popular with all who know him."

"Mr. Miller stands very high," said J. P. Wilson, "and is a very popular man. I think he would make an acceptable president."

"Mr. Miller is a very estimable gentleman," said Francis Baidler, "and would make a very acceptable president, in my opinion."

"I was on the committee which nominated Mr. Miller," said H. S. Burkhardt, "and my vote for him in the committee shows how I feel toward Mr. Miller. He is the strongest candidate we could have nominated, and I believe he will receive the votes of a majority of the members. He will receive the support of a large number, and I believe he will be elected by a good majority. Mr. Miller stands very high as a lawyer, and is very popular."

Ex-Corporation Counsel John S. Miller, the candidate for President of the Union League Club on the members' ticket, has won the position he occupies at the bar by his own exertions and not through mere force of circumstances. He is of Scotch-Irish ancestry on his mother's side and descended from an old historic Massachusetts family on his father's. He was born May 24, 1847, in Louisville, St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

Mr. Miller graduated at the age of 22 years a bachelor of arts from St. Lawrence University, New York. After a course in the law department he was admitted to the bar in 1870 at Ogdensburg, N. Y., and held the position of professor of mathematics in St. Lawrence University for a year, and professor of Latin and Greek for two years. He resigned his place in 1874 and came to Chicago. Here he soon took a leading position at the bar. Mr. Miller was a member of the firm of Herbert, Quick & Miller, and after Mr. Herbert's death the firm was known as Quick & Miller. He is now a member of the firm of Peck, Miller & Starr. Mr. Miller's practice has been chiefly in the chancery courts, and among his more important cases have been those known as the "Flagler litigation," the "Riverside litigation," and the "Phillips and South Park litigation."

The first of these cases involved the estate of Augustus Garrett, and was argued before the United States Supreme Court in 1882. The second involved the greater part of the suburb of Riverside, and was carried to and handled successfully in the Supreme Court during 1881-85. The third, involving a large part of Jackson Park, was in the courts 1885-88.

These cases and others brought Mr. Miller's name so prominently before the public that he was appointed Corporation Counsel by Mayor Washburne in 1891. While Corporation Counsel for the city Mr. Miller handled a large number of important cases, and among them was the celebrated Lake Front case, in which the city won a notable victory against the Illinois Central Railroad, involving the validity of the grant of the Lake Front by the Legislature to the railroad company. The victory of the city was of the greatest importance, and it was held that the bed of navigable water is the property of the people, and is held in trust by the State for them. Since retiring from his office Mr. Miller has been engaged in private practice. He is a prominent Republican, a member of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, and besides the Union League Club is a member of the Chicago, Hamilton, Lakewood and Chicago Literary Clubs.

The Elevator Trust is sending for new members to "fix" them against the repeal of the infamous warehouse law passed at the last session.

If the people of Chicago permit themselves to be robbed by an Octopus which has no legal right to exist, they are not entitled to any sympathy.

A report of special interest in view of the present Nicaragua-Panama discussion is that sent forth by the treasury bureau of statistics in its latest issue in reference to the world's canal traffic. The figures show the business of the Suez canal, the Kaiser Wilhelm, the St. Mary's, the New York canals and others, and are very suggestive as to the course and tendency of inland and world commerce. From these tables a few statements may be adduced showing the increase and present amount of tonnage of these great avenues of commerce. Taking the Suez canal as historically of the greatest significance, the treasury statistics show an increase in net tonnage from 6,576 tons in 1899, its opening year, to 8,889,777 in 1901, since which there has been little change. The Kaiser Wilhelm canal has increased during the three years it has been in operation from 1,505,983 tons to 2,460,705 in the year ending March 31, 1900, or an increase of nearly 50 per cent. The most stupendous figures are those in connection with the St. Mary's Falls canal, connecting Lake Superior and the lower lakes. The freight tonnage in this canal has increased from 1,567,741 tons in 1891 to more than 18,000,000 in 1897—an increase without precedent in the history of canals, showing that in volume of business this pathway of commerce takes first rank in the world. The Welland, also, shows an increase from 810,034 tons in 1890 to 1,207,067 the last year. The New York canals alone show a steady decrease since 1890, the number of tons in that year being 4,067,402, while in 1897 the number was only 1,878,218. This result has been brought about by a number of causes, chief of which, however, has been the reduction in rail freights from Chicago to the coast. Thus the average rate per bushel for wheat from Chicago to New York by lake and canal in 1877 was 11.24 cents, and in 1897 4.25 cents. During the same time the combination of lake and rail freights has fallen from 15.8 cents in 1877 to 12.32 cents in 1897.

A twentieth century thank-offering of twenty millions dollars—one-half to be devoted to the educational, the other half to the charitable, enterprises of the church—has been invited by the Methodist Episcopal bishops. They ask that it be subscribed and paid during the next three years, and have named a commission of clergymen and laymen to carry the plan into effect. It is a vast amount that is demanded, vast enough to test the faith and courage of even this great and generous denomination; but ours is not a "day of small things" in Christian benevolence, and there should be inspiration in the thought of the great things that twenty million dollars will do.